

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The flexible tube of claim 207, wherein the high-pressure fluid is a hydrogen gas or a mixture of a hydrogen gas and liquid hydrogen.

10. (Currently Amended) The flexible tube of claim 207, wherein each of said~~the~~
~~both first and second ends of the said metal bellows tube have~~has a metal pipe as a mouth piece,
and ~~the each of the mouth piece-pieces is joined with the said first and second ends~~end of the said
metal braid, respectively, by welding or brazing.

11. (Currently Amended) The flexible tube of claim 207, ~~wherein the end~~ further
comprising a mouth piece joined with at least one of said first and second ends of the said metal
braid is joined with a mouth piece by brazing, the endat least one of said first and second ends of
the said metal braid is being furnished with a braid presser ring covering the said metal braid, the
said metal braid and the said braid presser ring are being brazed to the said mouth piece, with the
an end faces face of said metal braid and an end face of said braid presser ring being
approximately at an even position, the said braid presser ring has having a through hole that
exposes the said metal braid at a predetermined position from the end face of said braid presser
ring, and the said through hole allows being configured to enable confirmation of penetration of a
solder in the said metal braid at least to the predetermined position.

12. (Currently Amended) The flexible tube of claim 207, ~~wherein the end~~ further
comprising a mouth piece joined with at least one of said first and second ends of the said metal
braid is joined with a mouth piece by brazing, the at least one of said first and second endsend of
the said metal braid is being furnished with a braid presser ring covering the said metal braid, the
said metal braid and the said braid presser ring are being brazed to the said mouth piece, with the
an end face of said metal braid and an end face of said braid presser ring being faces

approximately at an even position, and ~~the~~ an inside of ~~the~~ said braid presser ring and/or ~~the~~ an outside of ~~the~~ said mouth piece ~~comprises~~ comprising a circular recess or single recess that allows a solder to flow therein and serves as a stopper.

13. - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The flexible tube of claim 207, wherein ~~the~~ said metal bellows tube has an inside diameter of 4 - 17 mm.

16. (Cancelled) The flexible tube of claim 207, wherein ~~the~~ said metal bellows tube is formed by ~~the~~ a production method ~~of claim 5~~ comprising:

preparing a metal bellows fundamental tube having an initial bellows shaped tube wall, such that the initial bellows shaped tube wall has sectional portions of initial ridges and valleys that are U-shaped;

compressing the fundamental tube in a longitudinal direction to bring the initial ridges and valleys that are adjacent into close contact with each other;

pressure-forming the fundamental tube until an inside space of each initial ridge and a gap between initial ridges that are adjacent substantially disappear, and

stretching, in the longitudinal direction, the initial fundamental tube after said pressure forming until a predetermined distance is achieved between peak-to-peak gaps of the initial ridges that are adjacent.

17. - 19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) A flexible tube for use in transferring a high-pressure fluid of 70 MPa, said flexible tube comprising:

a metal bellows tube including a first end, a second end and a bellows-shaped tube wall, said bellows-shaped tube wall including bellows and having a ridge and a valley formed therein,

said ridge and said valley having a V-shaped sectional shape, said bellows-shaped tube wall being formed from stainless steel and having a thickness of 0.1- 0.5 mm, said ridge having a height of 1-4 mm, and said bellows having a pitch of 2 mm or less; and

a tubular metal braid having a first end and a second end and covering an outside of said flexible tube, said first and second ends of said tubular metal braid joining with said first and second ends of said metal bellows tube, respectively, and said tubular metal braid being a densely braided layer superposed in 4 to 5 layers on an outside of said metal bellows tube, said densely braided layer comprising strands made of stainless steel and having a strand diameter of 0.3-0.6 mm and a crossing angle of 50-120 degrees, so that said tubular metal braid suppresses elongation of said bellows caused by the high-pressure fluid in said metal bellows tube.

21. (New) A flexible tube for use in transferring a high-pressure fluid of 70 MPa, said flexible tube comprising;

a metal bellows tube having a bellows-shaped tube wall, a first end and a second end, said bellows-shaped tube wall having a ridge and a valley formed therein, said ridge and said valley having a V-shaped sectional shape;

a tubular metal braid having a metal strand, a first end and a second end and covering an outside of said flexible tube, said first and second ends of said tubular metal braid joining with said first and second ends of said metal bellows tube, respectively; and

a mouth piece joined with at least one of said first and second ends of said metal braid by brazing, the at least one of said first and second ends of said metal braid being furnished with a braid presser ring covering said metal braid, said metal braid and said braid presser ring being brazed to said mouth piece with an end face of said metal braid and an end face of said braid presser ring being approximately at an even position, said braid presser ring having a through hole that exposes said metal braid at a predetermined position from the end face of said braid presser ring, and said through hole being configured to enable confirmation of penetration of a solder in said metal braid at least to the predetermined position,

wherein a total sectional area S of said metal braid member and material of said metal

strand are determined so as to satisfy

$$(\sigma \times \cos (\theta / 2)) / n \geq F / S$$

wherein F [N] is a force of the high-pressure fluid which acts to stretch said metal bellows tube, S [mm²] is the total sectional area of said metal strand appearing on a cross-section of said metal braid, a crossing angle θ of the metal braid = 50 - 120 degrees, σ [MPa] is a tensile strength of the material of said metal strand, and n is a safety factor.

22. (New) A flexible tube for use in transferring a high-pressure fluid of 70 MPa, said flexible tube comprising;

a metal bellows tube having a bellows-shaped tube wall, a first end and a second end, said bellows-shaped tube wall having a ridge and a valley formed therein, said ridge and said valley having a V-shaped sectional shape;

a tubular metal braid having a metal strand, a first end and a second end and covering an outside of said flexible tube, said first and second ends of said tubular metal braid joining with said first and second ends of said metal bellows tube, respectively; and

a mouth piece joined with at least one of said first and second ends of said metal braid by brazing, the at least one of said first and second ends of said metal braid being furnished with a braid presser ring covering said metal braid, said metal braid and said braid presser ring being brazed to said mouth piece, with an end face of said metal braid and an end face of said braid presser ring being approximately at an even position, and an inside of said braid presser ring and/or an outside of said mouth piece comprising a circular recess or single recess that allows a solder to flow therein and serves as a stopper,

wherein a total sectional area S of said metal braid member and material of said metal strand are determined so as to satisfy

$$(\sigma \times \cos (\theta / 2)) / n \geq F / S$$

wherein F [N] is a force of the high-pressure fluid which acts to stretch said metal bellows tube, S [mm²] is the total sectional area of said metal strand appearing on a cross-section of said metal braid, a crossing angle θ of the metal braid = 50 - 120 degrees, σ [MPa] is a tensile strength of

the material of said metal strand, and n is a safety factor.